(d) The debt outstanding against external Loan on Government account for the last three years and estimated for 1997-98 are as follows:

	(Rs. Crore)
As on 31.3.95	142525
As on 31.3.96	148595
As on 31.3.97 (Est.)	151184
As on 31.3.98 (Est.)	153619

The estimated (BE) repayments during 1997-98 is Rs. 7464 crores.

*The principal repayment of internal and external debt is met out of fresh borrowings, thus rolling over the debt. It is not met out of current revenue receipts.

Lending Rate of RBI

3153. SHRI VIJAY PATEL:
SHRI RATI LAL KALIDAS VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has been announcing lending rate for institutions like Housing and Urban Development Corporation etc. from time to time; and

(b) if so, the details of lending rates announced for such institutions during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that with effect from September 12, 1995, it was decided to include housing finance agencies in the category of intermediary agencies and banks were advised to charge a fixed rate of interest at 1.5 percentage points below their respective Prime Lending Rates for credit limits in the category of advances over Rs. 2 lakhs on Housing Finance granted to intermediary agencies for on lending to ultimate beneficiaries. As far as HUDCO is concerned, its lending rate is decided by its Board of Directors. However, the lending rate of EWS/LIG Housing Schemes and Action Plan Scheme is decided by an Empowered Committee under the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

NRI Accounts in Cooperative Banks

3154. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for permitting the cooperative banks in Kerala to deal with the foreign exchange remittanced of the Non-resident Indians is pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

External Aided Projects

3155. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides 25% amount of the Budgetary resource for the Externally Aided Projects as an advance in the beginning of the financial year to be adjusted against the expenditure of implementing the Externally Aided Projects without causing time and cost over-run;

(b) if so, whether the Government has released the amount of advance to the State Government of Rajasthan for such projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Advance Additional Central Assistance (ACA) released to Government of Rajasthan since 1994-95 are:

	(Rs. Crores)
1994-95	32.77
1995-96	46.60

During 1996-97, no Advance ACA was released to the State on account of Budgetary constraints.

Transfers Gudelines to Nationalised Banks

3156. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directive have been issued by Government to Nationalised Banks for transfer of officers of various cadres after every three years etc. from a Branch/Office/Region to another Branch/Office/Region/Zone;

(b) whether any exemption have been given from such transfers to activities/office-bearers/leaders of officers association etc. recognised by the management etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) if not the steps taken by Government for such violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDERA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The transfer of banks' staff is a management function of the bank. As such transfer/exemption from transfer is done by banks based on administrative exigencies of each bank.